

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 000239

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INL, S/CT, AND AF/W

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/18/2013

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [GH](#)

SUBJECT: GHANA CTAG MEETING

REF: STATE 014279

Classified By: Polchief Richard Kaminski, reason 1.5 (B/D).

11. (C) Per reftel instructions, Ambassador Yates convened a CTAG meeting on February 2 in Accra. In attendance on the donor side were the G-8 ambassadors or charge d'affaires in Accra, plus the EU and Swiss Ambassadors (the Spanish Ambassador was invited but out of country). National Security Coordinator Francis Poku attended for the GOG. The agenda was set in two parts: G-8-plus participants' assessment of the threat and host country's needs, and then the host country response.

12. (C) In the assembled chiefs of mission discussion (in advance of Poku's arrival), the terrorist threat in Ghana was generally assessed as relatively low, with no concrete threat emanating from inside Ghana at this time. However, given Ghana's open society and benign security forces, the potential for terrorists attempting to use Ghana as a base in the future could not be discounted. Particularly with Ghana's relatively good regional airlinks, indigenous Muslim population with some links to outside extremist groups, the presence of many major Islamic NGOs, and porous borders, watchfulness was called for. The presence of Muslim clerics from Gulf states, Pakistan and other locales pursuing fundamentalist agendas in Ghana was also a cause for concern.

13. (C) Francis Poku briefly gave a similar assessment of the situation in Ghana, noting that security forces monitor local and expatriate groups throughout the country, and that Ghana "could be a weak link" regionally if it did not conduct "proper data collection and analysis." Poku specifically noted poor contingency planning regionally, with management of emergencies being particularly wanting on the Ghanaian side. He also spoke of the difficulties with border control. Poku generally spoke of Ghana's need for data analysis infrastructure, enhanced training, and added resources to monitor events in the region. He said that the various security services were collating their needs, and he would be prepared to discuss them at the next CTAG meeting. Poku mentioned that, given the very high priority given to proper security for the presidential and parliamentary elections in December, he would not have quite the level of resources to devote to anti-terrorist activities as he might wish. "We must use our limited resources appropriately."

14. (C) Ambassador Yates offered a listing of USG contributions to law enforcement in Ghana generally, and overt anti-terror needs specifically, including the Pisces arrival and departure data system for all border posts in Ghana. She encouraged the assembled chiefs of missions to present their own listing of programs and assistance at the next CTAG meeting, to compare with the GOG resource requirements now being compiled.

15. (C) The Italian Ambassador provided a copy of a confidential document which indicated the following:

SIPDIS

Threat Assessment:

--Ghana appears to become a transit point for drugs and arms trafficking and presence of an active Muslim community (Lebanese and Islamic NGOs supported by Iran and Saudi Arabia)
--Will to cooperate: Ghana has ratified the 12 UN Conventions on terrorism

Needs Assessment:

--A special law on financial means for counter-terrorism actions under discussions
--Introduction of a new identity card system to fight against forged documents

Ongoing Assistance:

Airport Security: USA, Japan
Immigration: UK
Transnational Crime: Italy, France
Customs Assistance: Japan
Central Bank/Finance Ministry: USA

16. (C) The Italian Embassy is one of the few G-8 members in Ghana which has an intelligence operation. The Italian

Ambassador urged that a mosque and newspaper associated with it, the Searchlight, be monitored for any growth of fundamentalist or extremist trends.

Lanier